

Wycombe W. 4, Sutton Utd. 0

IN their wildest, most optimistic dreams, few could have forecast a 4-0 result over the mighty Sutton United. Yet, at Loakes Park on Saturday, that's what Wycombe's rampant Wanderers gave them, making the Isthmian League title seem highly accessible in the process.

One-time Wanderers' team boss, now in charge at Sutton, Sid Cann saw his men endure their heaviest drubbing since Don Revie's professionals from Leeds took them apart 6-0 in the F.A. Cup last season.

But satisfaction came two-fold to Wycombe. After four relatively easy opening fixtures, this was rated as their first true test.

If indeed it was, then they emerged not only with their 100 per cent record still intact, but also with morale boosted to the sky. Sutton were forced into play some surprisingly mundane football, obviously crying out for a pair of adequate replacements to fill the gaps left by Larry Pritchard and Ted Powell.

Ironically however, the visitors were initially unbalanced by an error from one of their own side. Last season's Walton and Hershman goalkeeper, Gary Bloom, misjudged a 14th minute corner sent high and dangerously off the right wing by Tony Horseman, and palmed the ball into his net instead of over the crossbar as intended.

Wanderers' couldn't have prayed for a more disarming start and went straight after another score. The 30th minute produced one of the best of their goals to date, when Geoff Anthony suddenly suspended play while Pritchard sprinted into an open space.

Proving that Cann's loss is Wycombe's gain, Pritchard took a pin-point pass and crashed the ball first time into goal.

Although only occasionally called on to make a direct save, goalkeeper John Maskell earned his keep on his return to the side, by stamping authority on play when Sutton tried the kind of aerial tactics used with much more effect against Bloom by Wycombe's forwards.

After the referee finally blew the interval whistle — albeit at

By

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least five minutes overdue — Wycombe resumed in the second half with renewed bite. But after his hat-trick against Casuals, a half-pace Keith Searle was least of Sutton's worries.

Wanderers' two second half scores, like their first, came from up high. And they signed, sealed, and delivered both points after 66 minutes; a free kick from Horseman swung across for Delaney to head them into a three goal lead.

Again it was from a Horseman free kick that Wanderers went even further ahead five minutes later. The ball soared over the 'box' and Bernie Bremer right-footed it past Bloom.

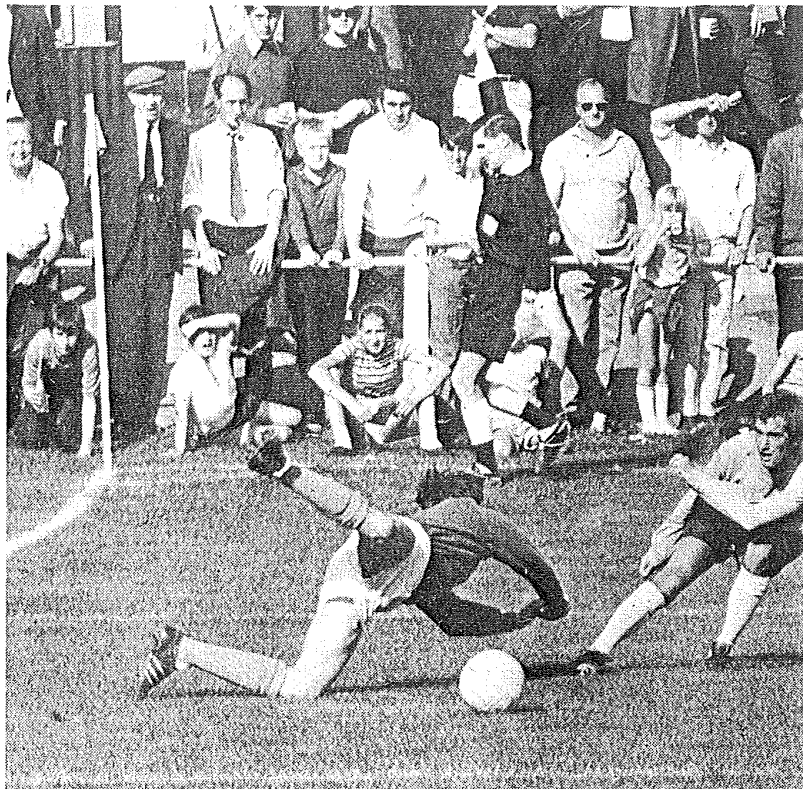
WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell; K. Blunt, C. Gale; E. Powell, J. Delaney, B. Baker; G. Anthony, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, B. Bremer, A. Horseman. Sub.: I. Rundle (not used).

SUTTON UNITED: G. Bloom; D. Clarke, K. Grose; A. Pentecost, R. Brookes, D. Gradi; P. Drabwell, T. Waughman, T. Bladon, R. Gonzalez, T. Howard. Sub.: T. Bradford (not used).

Referee: Mr. C. R. V. Bowen.

Attendance: 3,196.

Gate and stand receipts: £484 4s.



Larry Pritchard beats Sutton goalkeeper Bloom in this action to the side of the v box on Saturday. But the linesman's flag was up for offside, and the shot went wide way. Wanderers continued their 100 per cent record with a resounding 4-0 vict